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1865/66  
R E P O R T

OF THE

S E L E C T M E N

OF THE

TOWN OF MERRIMACK,

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1865--6.

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N A S H U A :

PRINTED BY GREENE & NOYES.

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REPORT

OF THE

STATE OF MINN.

OF THE

TOWNSHIP OF MINN.

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

1885-86

WASHUAT

PRINTED BY CHAS. A. MOORE

1886

# REPORT

## OF THE

# SELECTMEN.

*To the citizens of the Town of Merrimack :*

### AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENTS AND RECEIPTS.

Assessments,	8829 46
Tax on dogs,	39 00
Pennichuck water works,	550 00
Savings Bank tax,	297 15
Fletcher & Parker,	7 00
Cash from County,	17 00
Railroad tax,	1119 21
Literary fund,	25 60
Cash of D. Jones,	2 64—10887 06
Wood and timber on farm,	690 00
	————— \$11577 06

### EXPENDITURES.

Paid State tax,	3225 00
County tax,	768 46
Schools,	956 92
School house tax in No. 1,	10 00
“ “ “ in No. 7,	150 00
	————— \$5110 38

### PAID OLD BILLS OF 1863 AND 1864.

Jos. Severns snowing bridge '63 and '64,	2 75
A. McC. Wilkins, breaking in 1864,	3 00
A. Harris, “ “	2 65
H. N. Robbins, “ “	3 60
H. J. Wilson, “ “	6 66



A. A. Woodward, breaking in 1864,	4 35
W. Reed, " "	7 00
F. Nichols, " "	6 00
S. E. Fields, " "	9 00
A. McMillen, " "	1 60
J. L. Foster, " "	1 28
H. C Ritterbush, " "	10 55
S. Morgan, " "	6 06
M. W. Wallace, " "	2 00
W. Noyes, old bill town farm, "	4 60
D. Sweatt, " " " "	3 20
J. G. Pedrick, " " " "	6 05
S. B. Moore, " " " "	5 00
R. H. Pratt, abatements and over-assess- ments in, '61 & '62,	32 85
D. Henderson old bill of '64 for J. Fields,	5 00
S. B. Moore, abatement 1864,	75 63
D. Jones, road bill of '64,	6 12
D. Jones, poor off the farm, '64,	15 00
S. B. Moore, bill on road, of '64,	22 35
Parker, & Anderson, goods for Dutton, & Fields,	12 52
H. C. Ritterbush, car fare, '64,	2 50
	<hr/> \$257 33

## ABATEMENTS.

Artemas Lovejoy,	4 08
S. Ritterbush,	3 40
R. Godfrey,	6 80
J. Wheeler,	1 70
D. Sweatt,	3 40
W. S. Holt,	4 08
F. F. Walker, discount on taxes,	147 27
F. F. Walker, abatement on taxes,	41 92
F. F. Walker " on savings bank,	30 81
M. R. Wheeler, over-assessment,	2 14
	<hr/> 245 60

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

New road at Souhegan,	160 00
J. L. Spalding, work on roads,	25 10
J. P. King, " " " "	6 42
J. Shedd, for plank,	3 20
J. L. Foster, " " " "	1 50
F. F. Walker, " " " "	3 00
Wm. A. Shattuck " " " "	12 25
A. McWilkins, " " " "	9 52

S. W. Wright, plank for pennichuck,	
bridge,	13 29
W. Parker, " " "	2 50
J. L. Spalding, labor at Holt's mill,	36 90
	<u>274 28</u>

## POOR OFF THE FARM.

R. P. Leonard,	26 00
W. T. Parker,	16 00
Peter Woods,	78 62
J. L. Spalding, Dr. Eaton, & Davis bill for	
J. S. Dutton,	8 50
Dr. Eaton, for J. Fields,	5 50
	<u>134 62</u>

## INCIDENTIALS.

W. T. Parker, military expenses,	36 80
Printing tax pamphlets,	18 00
N. P. Greene, stationary and books,	12 38
J. L. Spalding, attending court, and wit-	
ness fees,	21 97
Printing reports last year,	25 00
J. L. Bowers, committee,	3 00
Advertising,	2 40
A. Holt, J. P. King, J. Wood, damage to	
sheep, by dogs,	10 50
J. Wheeler, witness fee,	4 00
Ward Parker, attending court & expenses,	20 70
J. L. Spalding, " "	
to Concord,	29 50
	<u>192 25</u>

MONEY RECEIVED FROM PENNICHUCK  
WATER WORKS, AND OTHER SOURCES. 569 64

Paid out of said receipts as follows :

On J. Parkers' note,	260 00
J. L. Nash, " "	50 00
Cattle at farm,	166 20
Costs and expenses,	50 00
Dr. Eaton, and M. Davis' bill, J. S. Dutton,	8 50
Ballance to treasurer,	34 94
	<u>569 64</u>

## DEBTS DISCHARGED

Debts paid by Treasurer,	3945 75
" " " orders,	96 00
" " " by selectmen,	310 00
	<u>4351 75</u>



## ALMS HOUSE RECEIPTS.

G. Scripture horse keeping,	2 75
Paige, dinner and horse baiting,	1 00
S. Keney, one fowl,	75
D. Jones, dinners and baiting,	1 25
Longa, one days labor,	1 25
Mrs. French, 1 pig,	6 00
Kenney, 2 pigs,	13 00
Reed, 1 calf,	10 40
Longa, drawing logs,	2 00
Kenney, oxen 1 day,	1 50
Reed, 2 calves,	26 55
Knowlton, 6 lbs. butter,	2 10
“ “	4 40
Longa, labor off the farm,	17 50
Laton, 1 calf,	21 60
Jones, for veal,	3 50
Chamberlain for veal,	3 50
Goodwin for labor,	6 00
Longa, haying home farm,	8 00
Oxen work,	1 00
Parker for calf skin,	2 55
Laton, for 19½ lbs. butter,	6 24
Oxen, 5 days,	5 00
Hartshorn, 17 fowls,	8 50
Holt, 7 fowls,	3 50
Holt, dinner and baiting,	50
Oxen, work,	50
Moore cranberries,	3 50
Perry, oxen and man,	1 50
Longa, oxen,	4 00
Converse, 25 turkeys,	35 25
Pettingill, 6 “	7 00
Parker, dinner,	50
Spalding, yoke timber,	1 00
Hartshorn, boot in oxen,	35 00
Shedd, pasturing heifer,	3 50
Tennant, 20 turkeys,	30 00
Laton 9 lbs. butter,	4 05
Laton for eggs,	3 85
Laton chickens,	10 00
Keniston cranberries,	2 00
Kenney, butchering,	1 00
Laton, hide,	4 93
A. & T. Longa, oxen 20 days,	40 00
Horse keeping,	1 50
Longa, 5 days labor,	7 50



Reed, pasturing steers,	11 06
Parkhurst for stone,	1 50
Colburn, cranberries,	4 00
Scripture for meadow hay,	27 45
Longa, cash,	1 00
Fosdick, blacksmith bill,	4 90
Insurance paid by treasurer,	8 58
48 weeks board,	144 00
Whole amount paid by C. H. Longa,	575 18
“ “ received,	559 41
	<hr/>
Difference in accounts,	15 77
Salary of superintendent,	250 00
Repairs,	187 04
Stock,	246 29
	<hr/>

\$698 90

## EXPENDITURES.

Longa, for 18 fowls, 1 turkey,	12 00
Paige, for fish,	50
White, store goods,	3 15
Russell, opium and medicine,	8 15
Paige, for fish,	50
Longa, dinner, car fare,	55
Gage, for soap,	15
Whiten, grain and flour,	4 45
Longa, kerosene,	55
Fisher, ointment,	20
Matches,	45
Gage, for vinegar,	20
Perry, dried apples,	4 35
Parker, grinding,	64
Robbins, “	30
Fosdick, blacksmith work,	5 65
Crooker, butter and milk,	2 67
A. S. Longa, 2 days labor,	2 50
Fletcher, 5 gallons of soap,	75
Weston, labor,	25
Abbot, tea,	1 60
Onion and beet seed,	64
Grinding,	50
Fields, labor,	3 00
Goodwin, cash,	2 50
Cotton cloth,	3 50
Dress for Miss Chandler,	1 67
Brooms, &c., crockery,	3 70
Blood, for veal,	1 40

Reed, veal,	1 30
Hartshorn, vinegar,	55
Leather, and thread,	85
Grinding,	65
Longa, dinner,	50
Reed, store goods,	3 30
Moore, potatoes,	3 00
Veal,	1 66
Longa, potatoes,	50
Tin ware,	1 60
Store goods,	2 40

## EXPENSES.

Hartson, oxen 2 days,	3 00
Blood, half days labor,	75
A. S. Longa, " " "	75
Fuller, 1 bbl. cider,	4 00
Shoeing horse,	1 60
Bill to Howard, of '64,	1 00
Barr, store goods,	1 03
Potatoes,	50
Robbins, laths,	1 00
Dinner,	50
Weighing hay,	50
Pants for Goodwin,	2 75
Gage, vinegar,	10
Reed, store goods,	19 40
Coffee, pots, & pails,	2 33
Longa, rye,	2 00
" beans,	3 50
Potatoes,	80
Ham,	5 00
Rye,	2 00
2 rakes, 2 sythes,	4 24
Codfish,	80
Store goods,	5 56
T. T. Longa, haying,	28 25
A. S. " " "	31 25
J. " " "	12 00
Cash to Goodwin,	25 20
Store goods,	4 56
Parker, beef,	1 50
Laton,	1 56
Vinegar,	3 10
Parker, beef,	1 57
Vinegar,	50
Crockery,	50

Jane McMillen, 9 weeks labor,	18 00
Crooker, for use of bull,	3 00
"    Steer,	39 00
Russell, six pans,	3 00
1 bag of meal,	2 30
2 pigs,	10 00
Beef,	4 67
Laton,	1 26
Butter tub,	34
Meal,	72
Rye,	1 25
Dinner & baiting,	1 50
Beef,	1 60
T. T. Longa, one-half day,	50
Perry, vinegar,	1 08
Laton, 80 lbs., beef,	10 40
2 bush. of rye,	2 50
Tin ware, broom,	5 03
Churn & tubs,	7 75
Boiler & curtains,	3 00
Tin ware,	17 52
1 doz. knives, & forks, & paper,	6 00
Crackers,	1 92
Fixing clock,	1 00
Beef,	7 35
Store goods,	4 35
Butchering,	2 00
Longa, 25 bushels potatoes,	16 25
"    2    "    rye,	2 50
Butchering,	50
Soap,	50
Sundries,	4 50
Mrs. Smith, Spinning,	1 80
Opium,	2 00
Rye,	2 50
Abbott, store goods,	20 43
Stevens, " " "	34 09
Vickery, " " "	7 05
Russell, " " "	7 42
Small, blacksmith bill,	8 45
Herrick, rep. waggon,	3 50
Fosdick, blacksmith,	4 90
Insurance,	8 58
French, vinegar,	50
Veal,	1 30
Potatoes,	70
1 bag of meal,	2 00



Store goods,	6 26	
Butchering,	50	
Mary Longa, labor,	6 00	
Mrs. Woods, "	4 00	
Taxes in Amherst,	1 26	
		<hr/>
		\$575 18

Anderson & Parker, store goods paid by or-	
der,	81 14
Abbott " "	190 96
Chas. H. Longa, sup't.	250 00

## REPAIRS AT ALMS HOUSE.

Colburn, Spalding, and Chamberlain, labor,	44 00	
F. & D. S. Chase, lumber, and shingles,	68 43	
C. T. Spaulding's, bill, masonry and roof-		
ing,	20 47	
G. C. Shattuck, lime,	4 10	
Rockwood, frames, and sash,	7 44	
Longa, lumber,	10 00	
Fisher, labor,	4 50	
T. T. Longa, labor,	3 00	
Eastman, for sink,	6 50	
Hard ware,	11 64	
Dodge, labor,	5 25	
Clapboards,	1 71	
		<hr/>
		\$187 04

## PAID FOR STOCK.

1 horse,	80 00	
4 2 years old steers,	166 20	
1 2 " " " included in expenses		
of farm,	39 00	
		<hr/>
		\$246 20

*Invoice of Personal Property at Farm, Feb.*  
19 1866.

1 pair of oxen,	2 00	
6 three years old steers,	3 30	
6 cows,	2 50	
1 horse,	100 00	
2 shoats,	55	
3 turkeys,	6 00	
29 fowls,	14 50	
		<hr/>
		\$955 50

## HAY AND GRAIN.

Eight and one half tons English hay,	170 00	
1 1-2 ton of meadow hay,	12 00	
Straw, stalks & fodder,	2 50	
8 bushels oats,	4 00	
1 " barley,	1 00	
4 " corn,	5 00	
Seed corn,	4 00	
Two and one half bushels of beans,	5 00	
2 bush. rye,	2 50	
		<hr/>
		\$206 00

## PROVISIONS.

One half bbl. flour,	6 50	
2 bush. rye, and indian meal,	2 50	
2 gallons molasses,	1 40	
6 lbs. sugar,	96	
Spices,	1 25	
One half lb. tea,	70	
Fifteen and three fourths, lbs. tallow,	2 37	
28 lbs. lard,	7 00	
31 " butter,	13 95	
40 " fresh beef,	6 75	
Two thirds bbl. salt beef,	20 00	
150 lbs. ham and shoulders,	30 00	
300 " salt pork,	60 00	
20 " cod fish,	1 60	
50 bush. potatoes,	40 00	
5 galls. vinegar,	1 00	
40 " soap,	8 00	
20 lbs. b. salt,	40	
2 quarts kerosene,	1 00	
1 " oil,	60	
4 bushels cranberries,	12 00	
		\$217 98

*Invoice of Personal Property Feb. 21, 1865.*

Stock and shoats,	565 00	
Hay and grain,	476 29	
Provision,	246 29	\$1287 49

*Invoice of Personal Property, March 17, 1865.*

Four and one half tons Eng. hay,	127 50	
Three fourths ton meadow, "	18 00	
2 " " "	18 00	
5 bush. barley,	5 00	
13 " oats,	13 00	
1 " rye,	2 00	
43 " corn,	86 00	

2 bnsh. beans,	4 00	
98 lbs, ham,	24 50	
182 " pork,	45 50	
70 bushels potatoes,	35 00	
2 shoats,	42 00	
3 turkeys,	8 00	
11 fowls,	5 00	
3 two years old stock,	6 00	
5 cows,	250 00	
1 pair of oxen,	200 00	\$943 50

### FARMING TOOLS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

Same as last year, with these additions :

48 milk pans, & cream pail,	24 90	
2 tubs & churn,	7 75	
2 rakes, & 2 scythes,	4 24	
Tin ware, coffee pot, & pails,	3 93	
1 doz. knives, & forks,	4 50	
Boiler & curtains,	3 00	\$48 32

### ADDITION TO STOCK.

1 horse,	80 00	
4 steers,	166 20	\$246 20
1 steer paid out of farm receipts,	39 00	\$285 20

### TOWN OFFICERS.

M. P. Nichols and H. B. Spalding, superintending school committee,	50 00	
C. M. Parker, town treasurer,	15 00	
F. F. Walker, collector,	70 00	
S. B. Moore, town clerk,	20 00	
J. L. Spalding, selectman and overseer of the poor,	86 00	
W. Parker,	80 00	
E. Kittredge,	42 00	\$363 00

Whole amount of assessments and receipts, \$11577 06

### RECAPITULATION.

Paid State tax,	3225 00	
County tax,	768 46	
School and school house,	1116 92	
Old bills,	257 33	
Abatements,	245 60	
Roads and bridges,	274 28	
Poor off the farm,	134 62	
Incidentals,	192 25	



Town officers,	363 00	
Alms-house repairs,	187 04	
Stock purchased,	246 20	
Balance against farm	235 77	
		<hr/>
		\$7240 97
In favor of town on financial year,		4330 59
Due from government as last year,		2180 00
T. H. Moore's note not included,		<hr/>
		\$6510 59
Whole town debt,	30324 53	
In favor of town,	6510 59	
Total debt March 1st, 1866,	<hr/>	\$23813 84

In presenting our report to you, we have spared no pains to give to you a true account of the finances of the town that you may know its financial condition. Our attention also will be turned to matters at the town farm, but as they will come before the meeting for their consideration little need here be said. The paupers, seven in number, have enjoyed good health and are well satisfied with their home and overseers. Mr. & Mrs. Longa, we believe, have been kind and attentive to their wants, and all has been peace and harmony through the year. Mr. & Mrs. L. have been unfortunate, and two of their sons with sickness the past season; and he during the winter, has been able to labor but a portion of the time, on account of which he declined to remain another year; and we have procured the services of Mr. Fuller and Mother to supply their place for \$290, per year. The action brought by the town against the Pennichuck Water Works Co., has been adjusted, as you will see by the report, and one brought against Jesse Gilman for damage to road near his mill, and one against the town by J. H. McAfee of Bedford, for damage alledged to have been done to his horse in Jan. 1865., both of which are unadjusted. As our report exhibits our transactions quite fully, together with the Superintendent of the town farm, further comment seems unnecessary.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

J. L. SPALDING, } Selectmen  
WARD PARKER, } of  
ERI KITTREDGE, } Merrimack.

Merrimack, Feb. 27, 1866.



# REPORT

OF THE

## SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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### *Fellow citizens :*

It has been with no little care and anxiety that we have watched the progress of our schools the past year, fearing at times that some might prove a failure; yet with one or two exceptions, we are happy to say that we can report them favorably.

Our Prudential Committees have been very fortunate in the selection of teachers the past year, and our opinion in reference to the progress of the several schools will be found in the following report of the *Prudential Districts*.

### District No. 1.

Zadoc Farmer, Prudential Committee. There has been but one term the past year, and that was under the direction of Miss L. Anna Wilkins, of this town. The school in this district is very small averaging, as will be seen, but 8 scholars. It is also in a very backward state. There is little or no interest manifested by the parents; the school room, though comfortable, is not at all inviting, the walls being entirely destitute of outline maps, no recitation seats, the whole class being obliged to stand during the recitation. Notwithstanding the scholars made good improvement under the circumstances.

Miss Wilkins brings with her the experience of many years in teaching, and by her mild and persuasive manner she won the good will of her scholars, and they strove to make good use of their time.

The scholars in this district are mostly large, and we were glad to know that they did not think themselves too large to attend school.



### District No. 2.

Henry C Ritterbush, Prudential Committee. The summer term was taught by Miss Hostensia McMillen, of this town. This term was very short being only seven weeks. The average attendance of this school is the best in town, being 9 19-39 the whole number of scholars being 10. The teacher's influence upon the scholars was very good, and her labors were quiet, yet efficient. A very fair progress was made—all that could be reasonably expected in so short a time.

The winter term was taught by Miss Laura E. French, of this town. The school this term is smaller than the last, the whole number being but 8—the average attendance being about the same in proportion.

We visited this school at the commencement and found every thing in good order; the scholars seemed studious and happy, and there was every prospect of a successful term and we have no doubt it was, although no examination was held, the money having been expended before the Prudential Committee was aware of it, in consequence of which the school closed very abruptly. The teacher proposed, however, to continue the school another day, gratuitously, for the purpose of an examination; but owing to a previous engagement the Committee could not attend.

We understand that singing was introduced into this school with very good effect.

In justice to the teacher, we ought to say, that during the short time we spent in her school we were very favorably impressed with her appearance, and judging more from personal acquaintance, we do not doubt that she will meet with marked success in teaching.

### District No. 3.

Thomas Parker, Prudential Committee. Miss Addie E. Shedd, of this town, teacher of both the summer terms. The winter term was also offered her, but she declined the offer, having an application to teach in an adjoining town for a much larger compensation than was usually paid in this district.

Much credit is due to the teacher for her faithful and persevering efforts, and it is but justice to the school to say, that it has made excellent progress in the various branches taught. A few of the scholars were rather restless this term, but the most of them were orderly and attentive to their studies.

The character of the school the second term was similar to that of the one previous. The same energy, and perseverance, on the part of the teacher was observed as during the last term. The classes all appeared well on examination,

particularly the class in Colburn's Arithmetic, and it is sufficient to say that our impression at the close was that this was the more successful term.

Mrs. Eliza Ann Stevens, of Bedford, has charge of the winter school. It is our privilege, as it is certainly our pleasure, to speak favorably of the discipline and progress of the school the present term.

Special attention has been paid to reading and a marked progress made, also in spelling, a branch of study which is too much neglected. Mrs. Stevens thus far has fully sustained the high reputation she has heretofore acquired as a teacher, and though the school is to continue one or two weeks longer we fully expect it will close giving entire satisfaction.

#### District No. 4.

John L. Spalding, Prudential Committee. This district has been very fortunate in the selection of teachers the past year. There have been three terms; the first of eleven weeks, taught by Miss Harriett N. Robbins, of Nashua; the second a private term of ten weeks, and the third a term of six weeks, both under the instruction of Miss Zelpha A. Kendall, of Dunstable, Mass.

The last term was lengthened out three weeks by subscription, which make in all thirty weeks. The noise and uncouthness which heretofore have been noticeable in the scholars of this district, have been, in a great measure abated, and this school in regard to scholarship, ranks first in town.

Another sign of the times is in regard to the attendance. The average attendance being 24 the first term and 26 the last; the whole number being 29. The tardinesses also have dwindled from 290 the former, to 35 the latter term.

This is the only school in town, we believe, in which Algebra is studied, two scholars having completed Davies' Algebra, being able to do every example. Physiology was also studied with good success.

The classes in Arithmetic did finely. It will be noticed that in this District the highest wages have been paid in town, but we are satisfied that the money has been well expended.

#### District No. 5.

Samuel Humphrey, Prudential Committee. The summer term was under charge of Miss Mary A. Fuller, of this town, a teacher of some experience, who labored hard for the improvement of her scholars, and her labors were rewarded with success.

The winter term was taught by Miss Nettie S. Hutchinson, of Milford. This was her first attempt at teaching, and she was eminently successful; with experience she will become a

first class teacher. The school in this district is small, numbering but 10 each term. The recitations in reading, and arithmetic, were excellent. There are some very fine scholars in this district.

### District No. 6.

R. P. Hill, Prudential Committee. Both terms of this school have been under the instruction of Miss Mary A Fields, of this town. The house is now very comfortable and convenient. Outline maps would add very much to the looks of the room, as well as the benefit of the scholars. The school at the examination appeared orderly, and good progress had been made in the various studies pursued. Miss Fields, is an energetic, active teacher and infuses life into her scholars. She has a habit of prompting scholars which should be corrected, not giving the scholar time to answer the question before commencing the answer for him. The parents show an interest in the school, by visiting it and in other ways. Owing to not getting notice of the close of the school in season, and having two other schools to examine that day, it was late when we arrived, and the examination was prolonged till lights had to be brought in. It frequently happens that two or three schools close the same day, therefore word should be sent to the Superintending Committee in season, so they can fix upon a time to examine the schools.

### District No. 7.

James Fosdick, Prudential Committee. The school house being under repair, there was no summer term. The winter term was taught by Miss Lois C. Richardson, who taught the school last winter to the entire satisfaction and even admiration of the whole district. The school commenced with the same unanimity of feeling towards the teacher, and we had reason to expect a very profitable term, and previous to the vacation the school was prosperous and harmonious. We regret to say that some three or four weeks before the close of the school, a difficulty arose between the teacher, and a portion of the scholars, which resulted in the withdrawal of some eight or ten from school.

Some of the parents sympathizing with the disaffected scholars, the difficulty increased till it resulted in a petition to the Committee to dismiss the teacher. In order to ascertain the true state of affairs, we visited the school, several of the petitioners being present; and after listening to the various recitations which were satisfactory, and the scholars being dismissed, opportunity was given to the petitioners present to state their objections to the teacher, she being present to reply; and after hearing both parties, our conviction was, that there was no sufficient reason for granting the petition,



nor did we see sufficient reason for the scholars leaving. Although the teacher may at times, have been indiscreet, we are satisfied that the difficulty, principally arose from a mutual misunderstanding. Notwithstanding this interruption, the scholars who remained to the close, made good progress in their studies, particularly the younger portion, and the examination passed off satisfactorily.

The rhetorical exercises, reading of "the paper" valedictory &c., were quite entertaining and reflected credit upon the school. A very good number of visitors were present, as usual, in this district.

### District No. 8.

Alexander McC. Wilkins, Prudential Committee. This is a very small, and one term school. Miss Priscilla E. W. McKean, teacher. Owing to the fact of one family's moving into the district, and by the exertions of the Prudential Committee to induce some to come in from out of the district, the school was swelled to the number of twelve; otherwise there would have been but three. The examination showed a thoroughness on the part of the teacher, and a promptness on the part of the scholars. The exercises in reading were excellent. Miss McKean, is an experienced teacher, easy in her manners, commanding obedience and respect.

Several of the parents were present at the close, but not one during the term.

### District No. 9.

David Henderson, Prudential Committee. The summer term was under the instruction of Mrs. Hannah E. Hodgman, of Bedford.

This school the present term have made fair progress in their studies. The first class in reading, made decided improvement, a class in grammar also recited well. The teacher being of an amiable disposition and winning in her manners, succeeded in gaining the love of her scholars. The order this term was fair.

The winter term was taught by Miss Jennie A. Parker, of whom it is sufficient to say, she has fully, if not more than sustained the high and well earned reputation she has heretofore enjoyed as a teacher.

The recitations at the close of the term, evinced a thoroughness on the part of the scholars, especially by the classes in geography and arithmetic. The recitation in Colburn's was excellent. Very good proficiency was made in penmanship; map-drawing was also practiced successfully. Singing, has added much to the interest of the school, a practice we always endeavor to encourage. The Prudential Committee was present as usual, and made some sensible remarks to the scholars.

The school was also addressed by our former Superintendent Mr. Ela, in his usually appropriate and instructive manner.

### District No. 10.

E. P. Parkhurst, and E. C. Stevens, Prudential Committee. The summer term was taught by Miss Cretia D. Parkhurst, of this town. The appearance of the school when visited in the early part of the term, was similar to that of former years, when it was our privilege to visit it; always finding the school orderly, respectful and studious. We were unavoidably prevented from attending the closing examination, therefore cannot speak positively of the proficiency made during the term; but judging from its appearance, the short time we were in the school and our knowledge of the teacher's reputation, and efficiency, we have no doubt that good improvement was made.

The winter term was kept by Miss Agnes J. Cutler, of Bedford, a teacher of some experience, and good abilities. We visited the school twice during the term; and are able to report a very fair progress in the branches pursued. The recitation in Greanleaf's National Arithmetic was listened to with much satisfaction at the closing examination. We were particularly interested also in the reading of the first class. It is a common fault with scholars that they read too fast, but the reading here was neither too fast nor too slow, but in our view, just right.

### District No. 11.

William Eayres, Prudential Committee. This school has been taught the past year by Miss Julia A. Bixby, of Litchfield. The first term closed without any trouble, and the examination reflected credit, to the teacher and scholars. The second term had hardly commenced, when a spirit of insubordination began to manifest itself in various ways, among the children of Mr. Blood, and Mr. J. L. Bowers. This state of things continued for several weeks, when Mr. Blood, suffered his children to leave the school.

The teacher went on trying to get along, without any trouble, till she had occasion to punish one of Mr. Bowers' children for some disobedience; when two of the others came to the boy's assistance, and they altogether overpowered the teacher. She sent out for Mr. Eayres. He came in and was treated to a shower of abusive language by these children, and he advised her to suspend the school till the Superintending Committee could be consulted.

A petition was sent to us by the teacher, requesting us to expel three of Mr. Bowers' children. Not wishing to act without hearing both sides, we notified Mr. Bowers, what had been done and appointed a time, when we would hear

such evidence as they might present. We met accordingly, a large number in the district being present. After hearing all the evidence introduced, we decided that the children merited expulsion, but taking into consideration their ages, the oldest being but about thirteen, and the disgrace it would be to them in the future we thought it would be for the good of all to suffer them to remain, after extracting a promise from them, to obey the rules and requirements of the teacher in the future, and thus ended the *hearing*, and would it had ended the *seeing*, for it is with sorrow that we are obliged to report the occurrence of one of the most revolting scenes, that it has ever been our misfortune to behold. But as we understand this is to undergo a legal investigation, we deem it proper to omit further notice of this unhappy affair. We regret the necessity that compels us to make such a report of any district. We find upon looking over the report of this district by one of our predecessors, the following, language.

"It is unfortunate for this district that a want of harmony has arisen among the parents. No teacher can maintain good discipline and do justice to a school unless she is sustained by *their cordial and united support*."

In conclusion permit us to say that the teacher's reputation does not suffer in the least by these proceedings.

We learn that Mr. Eayres, has furnished all the wood and boarded the teacher gratuitously, during both terms.

### District No. 12.

William A. Shattuck, Prudential Committee. Miss Fannie V. Doane, teacher of both terms. The first term of ten weeks the second of eight and one half weeks. The parents in this district, manifest a good degree of interest in visiting the school, and at both examinations the school appeared well. A good deal of interest was taken in penmanship in which they all improved very much. It was hard to decide which had made the most improvement. Miss Doane, has had but little experience but is destined to become a good teacher.

A class in history recited admirably repeating portions of it verbatim. A class of little girls also sang very sweetly adding much to the interest of the occasion.

There was a dissatisfaction among some in the district and a few of the scholars were taken from the school, and another school set up, but with what success we are not informed.

It is to be regretted that more harmony does not prevail in some of our districts. If a teacher is unfit for her position either intellectually, or morally, it is the duty of every citizen to whom the fact is apparent, to make it known and have it investigated.

In bringing our labors for the past year, to a close, we would give expression to a few thoughts that have suggested



themselves to our minds during our rounds to the several districts, hoping they may be impressed upon the minds of parents and those who feel an interest in the welfare of our schools, and be led thereby to act. Your Committees have from time to time called your attention to the necessity of procuring Dictionaries in the several districts, and yet but one district is the owner of one, and that is No. 4. Now may we not hope, that, whoever reports the schools another year, they may be able to report a dictionary in every district, even if it be only a small one, costing no more than the sum of one dollar? Your attention has also been frequently called to the irregularity of attendance of your children. The injury to your children resulting from this, can hardly be estimated. Almost every page of a text book is intimately connected with the previous, and also with the following one. Now if a scholar loses one lesson, the connection is broken, and the explanations necessary for understanding the next lesson are lost. We make all due allowance for sickness, and all necessary absences; yet we cannot but believe that very much of this evil, is attributable to the indifference of the parents and scholars themselves.

The same may be said of tardiness, a scholar coming in after the school is commenced, naturally creates confusion and interruption.

Now parents will you not, the coming year, each one of you, make an effort to have these evils corrected?

Another wrong, and one which is productive of nine tenths of all the trouble in schools, is for the parents to take sides with their children, till they find out where the blame rests. Parents are not aware what an influence such a course exerts on the conduct and behaviour of their children. They should go to the teacher, not in a passion, and learn the facts in the case, if their child is in the wrong chastise him, if the teacher is wrong there is a remedy. But do not deprive your children of the benefit of what little schooling we have in this town, to gratify your own temper. For whom do you injure by such a course but yourselves and your children? You cannot withdraw your money, the teacher is seldom if ever injured by such a course. The better way would be to make your children go to school and behave themselves. A case occurred in another town which proves the better course. The teacher happened to look out of the window, and saw two of his boys fighting. He walked out and *walked* them into the house and gave them both a severe punishing; in the punishment of one of which he broke his ferule. The boy said nothing; but his father happening to hear of the fact, went to his shop and manufactured a nice ferule, and told his boy to give that to his teacher. No remarks were necessary; the boy understood what it meant, and suffice it to say he never had occasion to have it used on him.

Now suppose instead of the course the father pursued, he had taken the opposite one, as too many would have done, and taken his boy out of school, saying I am not agoing to have my children abused I know; do you hesitate to say which would have been the better course? I know we are apt to see things in different lights from different stand points.

If parents would visit the school room oftener, they would be better able to judge correctly. And now, while upon this subject, although your attention has been frequently and continually called to it, we cannot close without making one more effort to induce parents to be more mindful of their children while at school. Why is there so much indifference in this matter? Mothers, would you hire a girl to do house work for 12 weeks without going into the kitchen occasionally to see how she was managing, even though she might bring recommendations and certificates without number, of her qualifications?

Fathers, would you hire a person to work on your farms or in your shops without ever going to see how he was doing his work? No, I know you would not, but here you are entrusting that which is of vastly more importance, frequently to an entire stranger, the minds and morals of your children. There are some in every district, especially where the teacher boards at one place, who do not become acquainted with the teacher at all, unless the teacher takes it upon her to make the acquaintance of the whole district. Our schools are small and growing smaller. There are six districts in town whose average attendance is less than twelve, and in some of which there is but one term at that. Now what interest can the scholars have in a school of this number. It is almost a wonder, that teachers can be found to teach such schools. Yet what can be done? A diminution of districts has been proposed, but has not been thought expedient. We know of no way of remedying this, unless by two districts uniting and expend all the money of one district in the summer, and all the money of another in winter, the scholars of both districts attending both as far as possible. In this way, each scholar would have double the amount of schooling and it would cost no more for a teacher for twenty scholars than it would for ten.—However, this is merely a suggestion, for your consideration.

It is evident something must be done, or we shall have no schools in some districts. Our school houses are in fair condition, and our teachers the past year have been more than of an average class.

On the whole, we can congratulate you on the general success of our schools. Respectfully submitted.

MATTHEW P. NICHOLS, } Superintending  
H. B. SPALDING, } School Committee.

Merrimack, Feb. 26, 1866.

## SUMMER TERM.

## WINTER TERM.

\*Reported at the end of ten weeks.







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## REPORT.

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### *Parents and Fellow Citizens :*

In presenting my annual report, I feel, more than ever before, the responsibility resting upon me, and my inability to perform the labors satisfactorily to myself or acceptably to you, and am lead to exclaim in the language of the Poet,

“View me not with a critic's eye,  
But pass my imperfections by.”

I have endeavored to perform the duties devolving upon me, with an eye single to the best interests of education. How far I have been successful, I leave for you to judge.

While in some schools I am able to report a decided improvement over past years, in others, not so much as could be desired.

Some of our teachers, especially in the summer terms, have been young and inexperienced, consequently not so much improvement was expected.

Our school-houses are not what they ought to be.— While some of them are very fair, others are passable, and still others are totally unfit for school purposes. I would not recommend that new houses be built in these districts at present, but I would recommend a diminution of the number of districts.

I have adverted to this subject so often, without any effect, that I feel that it is almost labor lost to call your attention to it again, but realizing as I do the necessity of it, and the benefits that would be derived from it, I cannot forbear doing so, and urging you to give it your serious and candid consideration.



It will be seen by reference to the statistical table, that in several districts the average number of scholars is less than twelve. Now consider what an amount of money is about the same as wasted in hiring teachers and procuring fuel for these small schools, when the same amount of fuel, and one teacher, would be sufficient for twice or even thrice that number. I hope this subject will be brought before you for your consideration at the coming election.

I have thought best, during the past year, to make a change in the reading books, the old ones having been used a number of years, and I think the benefits resulting from it are already manifest, a decided improvement in reading having been made in most of the schools.

There is one other change necessary, and I should have made that also the past year, had I not feared you might think me too radical upon that subject, and feel that I ought not to subject you to the expense of two changes in one year. I refer to the Arithmetic. We have in one district no less than seven different text books in that branch, and in several, from four to six. I have examined several authors and give my preference to Eaton's Series, and I would recommend to my successor, (if it would not be too arrogant) to make a change in the arithmetic the present year.

More caution should be exercised in the selection of Prudential Committees, and those persons selected who are known to take an *active* interest in the cause of education. Not that there has been any fault to be found the past year in particular, but generally speaking.

It need be no disparagement to one person, that another is more competent to fill that office than he is.—A man may be a very good mechanic, and yet no preacher at all; and who would think of selecting a farmer to superintend a cotton mill? Yet there would be no more inconsistency in this, than selecting a man as agent of a school district, who takes no interest in the affairs of the school, and who is ignorant of the duties pertaining to the office. It is not enough that the agent hires a teacher and pays her off when she

gets through. He should visit the school occasionally and see that the house is kept in proper condition, and look after the affairs of the district generally. Of our twelve agents in town six have not visited the school once during the year. Our schools are languishing for want of proper interest. Too many are looking around and beyond the school-room, seeming to forget that in those rude huts are their greatest earthly treasures.— We are too prone to forget what a stimulus our presence in the school room would create in our children, showing that we are not unmindful of them. The teachers, too, what an incentive to extra efforts on their part, for the advancement of their pupils would an occasional visit from the parents exert.

At the commencement of the schools, I promised to report the names of those scholars, who would refrain from whispering during the year. I fear it did not accomplish what I desired, yet I think it has had an influence in suppressing the habit in a measure. Such names as have been reported by the teachers, will be found in the remarks on individual districts. I will say however that many names were reported in the summer terms that did not “continue to the end,” and consequently will not be found among the list.

I received a letter from our School Commissioner, Mr. Mason, saying that he would be in town to visit the schools about the first of December, the week that several of our schools commenced. Having planned to have all the schools, or as many as could do so, meet him at the church, or some other convenient place, that he might see more of them than he could possibly do by going around among two or three in one day, I communicated my plan to him requesting him, if convenient and agreeable, to postpone his visit two or three weeks till our schools got fairly under way. He very willingly acquiesced in my plan, but I regret very much, that sickness and death in his family prevented him from making the contemplated visit, and whether he will visit this town now, or not, I am unable to say.

I would call the attention of our Prudential Committees to one thing, and that is, that they call their school

meetings early in March. Many of our schools commence in April, and where the school meeting is put off till the middle or last of March, it gives the agent no time to procure a teacher till all the best ones are engaged. And I would by all means secure one that has had experience in teaching, if possible, even if I did have to pay a dollar or two more per week; depend upon it, it will be cheaper in the end.

I would also recommend that the several agents confer with the Superintendent, before engaging teachers. I think something like this plan might be adopted successfully. Give notice that the several agents and Superintendent will be in session on a certain day, for the examination of candidates for so many schools. After the examination you can make such selections as you think proper. This would save the Superintendent the very unpleasant necessity sometimes, of rejecting an applicant, and the applicant the very mortifying one of being rejected. I of course wish not to dictate to my successor the course he shall pursue, but simply throw out the suggestion. Such other thoughts as occur will be found in the following report of

## INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS:

### District No. 1.

George C. Ingalls, agent. Amount of school money, \$81.32. Amount to each scholar, \$7.57.

The one term in this district was taught by Miss H. Georgia Gillis, of Hudson. Miss Gillis has had but little experience in teaching, this being her second term, but by her mild yet persistent manner, coupled with her thoroughness of method, she will eventually take a high stand among our teachers. In consequence of the severe snow storm, her school closed a week sooner than was expected, and without an examination, therefore I cannot speak confidently of the progress made, but judging from the appearance of the school when I visited it, and from what I hear, I have no doubt but commendable progress was made. She says in her report: "The effort to dispense with whispering has not been quite successful, though the evil



has been in a measure abolished. The older scholars have not taken that interest in reading, that they should, while the younger ones have taken great interest in that study. Not one of the parents has visited the school during the term. Their occasional presence in the school-room would encourage teacher and scholars, and perhaps awaken a deeper interest in school duties."

### District No. 2.

Andrew Savage, agent. Amount of money, \$73.06. Amount to each scholar, \$6.08.

The summer term was kept by Miss Laura E. French and the winter term by Miss S. Addie Bryant. The district has been fortunate in the selection of a teacher for both terms. Miss French having taught several terms in town is well known. Miss Bryant came here a stranger. Both were successful and gave good satisfaction. The scholars improved, were well behaved, and everything passed off pleasantly. The gymnastic exercises at the close of the last term were very interesting to witness. The names of those who have not communicated are Celia M. Fifield, Cynthia A. French, Georgia E. Dodge, Hattie F. Otis, Isadore S. French, Sarah J. Crooker, Mary E. Crooker, Francis I. Dodge, Frank W. Crooker, George E. Fifield.

### District No. 3.

Samuel B. Moore, agent. Amount of money, \$186.98. Amount to each scholar, \$5.50.

The summer term was under the instruction of Miss Susie R. Tuten, a teacher of small experience, and though she labored for the improvement of her pupils, her efforts were not crowned with that success that we should be glad to report. The scholars were restless and uneasy, and a great deal of confusion existed.— Nevertheless they made some progress in their studies.

The fall and winter terms were taught by Miss Mary W. Griffin. She also labored hard for the advancement of her scholars, and the examination at the close of the last term showed a decided improvement over the previous one.

There are some very fine scholars in this district and what they need to make them shining lights, is thorough training.

#### District No. 4.

James Hale, agent. Amount of money, \$97.93.—  
Amount to each scholar, \$3.91.

The summer term was taught by Miss Harriet N. Robbins, of Nashua, a veteran teacher, with an experience of eighty-eight months' teaching. Miss Robbins is one of our best teachers, commanding, by her manner, the respect, love and fear of her pupils. The school was orderly, and the examination evinced a thoroughness seldom witnessed in this school. In addition to the summer school, a term of eight weeks was kept by subscription, by the same teacher, and it is to be regretted that she was not secured for the winter term, but the agent, from motives of economy I presume, thought best to employ a young and inexperienced teacher, whom he could hire for a less price, who *kept* four weeks, but finding it harder to manage than was expected, she gave it up, and the term was finished by Miss S. Frances Spalding, who won herself credit for her perseverance, and the advancement that was made, considering the disadvantages under which she labored. Miss Spalding was a member of the school, and it could not be expected that the scholars would have that fear, or hardly the respect they would have for a stranger, and the school was not so orderly as could be desired, nevertheless, the scholars made very fair progress, and the parents feel to be well satisfied with her efforts under the circumstances.

There were several names reported in the summer term as not having whispered, but not being reported the next term, I presume they have "fallen from grace," so I do not report them.

#### District No. 5.

Walter Reed, agent. Amount of money, \$63.68.—  
Amount to each scholar, \$4.54.

There has been but one term this year which was in charge of Miss Mary A. Fields, of this town. Miss

Fields has had considerable experience, and is a faithful and efficient teacher. She succeeded as usual in gaining the good will of her scholars, and a very good degree of improvement was made. This school is small averaging but ten scholars, and I believe five of these came from out of the district. The reading, especially by the first class, was excellent, and a thoroughness was manifest in all the recitations. There were forty-one visits made by citizens and others, which fact speaks well for the interest in this district. I am happy to report the names of Hattie Reed, Ella C. Gould, Hattie C. Humphrey, Lottie E. Truel, Abby L. Truel, Ines E. Dorr, Lizzie L. Reed, and Ellen R. Foot forgot herself and whispered *once*.

### District No. 6.

A. B. Woodward, agent. Amount of money, \$57.54. Amount to each scholar, \$3.03.

The summer term was taught by Miss Emily J. Marshall, who will, with experience, become an efficient teacher. She has a good deal of perseverance, a very essential qualification, and her school appeared well both times I visited it, and the examination gave evidence of improvement.

The winter term was in charge of Miss Addie E. Shedd, of this town. Miss Shedd is one of our working teachers, following it for the love of it, as well as the pecuniary profit. Would that we had more of this kind of teachers.

Owing to the extremely bad state of the roads *before*, and my absence from town *at* the close of school, I visited it but once during the term; but from my knowledge of the teacher, I can confidently report the school as having made good progress, considering the disadvantages under which she labored.

In the first place, the school was but seven weeks in length. Then the traveling prevented the regular attendance of some of the scholars, and the teacher's health compelled her to dismiss the school two weeks right in in the middle of the term. This school ranks well with the other schools in town. Frank Fields, Joseph Fos-



ter, and George Foster are reported as not having been absent one half day. Well done, boys; continue to be constant. I learn also that there were exercises in the evening of the close of school, consisting of speaking, singing, &c., which passed off to the entire satisfaction of all.

### District No. 7.

William Moore, agent. Amount of money, \$85.88. Amount to each scholar, \$2.57.

There have been thirteen and one half weeks' schooling the past year with a short vacation between the terms. Miss Laura E. French has had charge of the school. Miss French's reputation as a teacher is too well known to need any commendation from me. Under her instruction, the scholars made good progress in the various studies pursued. I see by the register that eleven were not absent one half day of the first term, and two of the second.

Their names are Sarah L. Moore, Aura F. Shedd, Lucy M. Kinson, Ella A. Shedd, John Humphrey, Alfred H. Kinson, Charles D. Shedd, Willie E. Campbell, and Orson A. Robbins, the first term, and Sarah L. Moore and Estella M. Moore the second term.

This is a step in the right direction. Scholars! you have set a good example. I hope it will be followed by others. Sarah L. Moore, Estella M. Moore and Aura F. Shedd have not whispered.

### District No. 8.

A. McC. Wilkins, Esq., agent. Amount of money, \$81.22. Amount to each scholar, \$6.25.

There has been but one term of eleven weeks the past year, Miss Priscilla E. McKean, of Amherst, teacher. Miss McKean was employed to teach this school last year, which is a sufficient recommendation. This school is small, and with few exceptions rather backward, and these exceptions should have other advantages of acquiring an education than those offered in the district school.

### District No. 9.

Isaiah Herrick, Agent. Amount of money, \$105.84.  
Amount to each scholar, \$3.11

Both terms of this school have been taught very successfully by Miss L. Anna Wilkins. This school is of such a character that it requires the constant attention of the teacher to keep the wheels running. The scholars are mostly young, and some of them are right smart. Some of the parents I should judge take but little interest in the school, as but two are reported as having visited the school in the summer, and four in the winter term.

The school-house too is in a dilapidated state and were the parents obliged to spend much of their time there, I think they would care but little how soon it was demolished. It seems more like a *prison* than a school-room. We have several poor school-houses in town but I think this is the poorest. It has no arrangements for ventilation, no recitation seat, and finally the house is a disgrace to the town and much more to the district.

John Murphy and James Logan, non-communicates.

### District No. 10.

George S. Parkhurst Agent.

Amount of money \$28.64.\* Amount to each scholar, \$1.68.

Both terms of this school were under the instruction of Miss Cretia D. Parkhurst of this town, a teacher of considerable experience, and who labored very successfully for the improvement of the pupils under her care. I visited the school at the commencement and close of the first term. The school was orderly and gave evidence of having made good advancement. I was happy to meet the Superintendent of the Bedford schools, whom I have never had the pleasure of meeting before.

Not getting notice of the commencement of the second term till it had been keeping some time, I did not go in, and being engaged in my school in Nashua at the

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\*From Merrimack. This is a Union district.

close, I was not in during the term, but have no doubt but it was as profitable as the first.

The scholars who compose this school are mostly from Bedford; a few years ago, it was the reverse, they were mostly from this town. Rose Cada and Mary E. Noyes.

### District No. 11.

Abel G. Blood agent.

Amount of money \$73.89. Am't to each scholar \$5.68.

The first term was kept by Miss Lucelia A. Kimball. This was her first attempt at teaching, and she failed to infuse that life and activity that we like to see in a school. The scholars appeared very orderly and very fair progress was manifest in some of the studies attended to.

The Winter term was taught by Miss Lizzie M. Poole of Hollis, whose efforts for the advancement of her pupils were abundantly successful.

Hattie R. Hardy, and Emma R. Morse.

### District No. 12.

Thomas M. King, agent. Amount of money \$46.40. Amount to each scholar \$2.73.

The summer term was taught by Miss Isabelle E. Styles. The teacher tried to interest the scholars and the examination indicated some improvement in their studies. But she lacked in government, without which the teacher's position is unpleasant, and the school unprofitable. There was some complaint that she abused some of the scholars, but as near as I can judge they deserved all the punishment they received, and perhaps a little more sometimes.

There is an element in this district that disturbs the harmony and success of the school very much. I refer to the practice of the children running to their parents with every little difficulty that arises between each other, the parents taking sides with their children, naturally enough perhaps, magnifying mole-hills into mountains until it results in hostility, if not actual hatred



among families. Now one boy may be an expert with his *tongue*, another with his *fist*, and each should abide the consequences, or not enter the conflict, for one cannot fight a great while alone, it will become monotonous. Now parents, be sure your children are not copartners in the affray, and then if they are wronged or abused, you will have a clear conscience to have the matter looked into.

Children will have their little petty difficulties, but if left to themselves, they are soon forgotten, and in fifteen minutes they are as good friends as ever.

The winter term was taught by Miss Addie E. Shedd, who combines many requisites for a good teacher.—With firmness, perseverance and energy, added to mildness, a love for children and the faculty of adapting herself to their different dispositions, she can scarcely fail of success. The term was short—only six and one-half weeks, but the examination would have been creditable to a term of even twelve weeks. They evidently were taught in a familiar manner, not so much to be able to recite it from the book, as to be able to make a practical application of what they learned. They were made to think for themselves. On the whole I consider this one of the most profitable terms for a long time. Mary A. King, Lizzie M. Cary, Frank I. King and Eddie C. Cary, were not absent during the last term. The first two neither absent, tardy nor dismissed.

I cannot close this report without referring to the discrepancy in the amount of money to each scholar in the various districts. By reference, it will be seen that in No. 1, the average amount to each scholar is \$7.57, and in this district there has been only one term of ten weeks, almost a dollar per week to a scholar. In No. 3, the average amount is only \$5.50, and twenty-nine weeks of school being less than twenty cents per week to a scholar. I admit that the cases alluded to may perhaps be the extremes, but other cases are nearly allied to them. But you ask, how is it to be remedied? I answer, in no other way than by diminishing the number of districts, throwing more money and more scholars into each.

Your attention has frequently been called to the importance of having a Dictionary in every school. At the commencement of the schools, I tried to get the children interested in the matter, and ask their parents for a small contribution each for that object, but I am compelled to report, that not one has been purchased in town.

In retiring from the arduous duties of this office, I wish to tender my sincere thanks for the courtesy with which I have invariably been treated, and may my successor be more worthy of your trust and more competent to perform the duties.

Respectfully submitted,

H. B. SPALDING,  
Supt'g. S. Committee.

Merrimack, March 1, 1867.

## STATISTICAL TABLE.

### SUMMER TERM.

No. of District.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Whole number of scholars,	*	12	26	25	*	18	33	*	30	14	13	17
Average attendance,		10½	21½	20		§11	29½		24	13	§12	15
Wages of Teacher per month, including board,		\$17.80	\$21.	\$23.		\$18.	\$20.		\$18.	\$20.	\$18.	\$20.
Length of school in weeks.		8½	9	10		10	7		8	12	8	11
No. of instances of tardiness.			15	37	15	25	47		102	9	48	72
No. not absent one half day.			1	4	4	3	12		8	2	5	4
No. of visits by citizens and others.		12	15	38		37	21			16	4	12

### WINTER TERM.

No. of district.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Whole number of scholars.	11	12	31†	20	14	19	27	13	34	17	12	17
Average Attendance.	8	10½	28½ 24½		10	15	22½	§8	30	15	11	§13
Wages of Teacher, including board, per month,	§22.	\$17.80	§22† \$26.	\$23.	\$20.	\$25.	\$20.	\$24.	§22.	\$20.	\$18.	\$26.
Length of school in weeks.	10	8	8† 12	11	11	7	6½	11	10	9	12	7
No. of instances of tardiness.	81	14	†25 63	11	23	17	48	9	193	14	39	11
No. not absent one half day.		2	†1 1	3	1	3	2		2		3	4
No. of visits by citizens and others.	9	12	†27 38	29	41	18	10	8	3	12	18	40

\*No Summer Term. †Fall Term.

## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

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*To the Citizens of the Town of Merrimack :*

### AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENTS.

State, county, town and school taxes as-		
essed,	\$8272	91
Tax on dogs,	27	00
	<hr/>	\$8299 91

### RECEIPTS FROM STATE.

Savings bank tax dividends for 1866,	328	72
Railroad " " "	1222	79
State aid for 1866,	186	92
Literary fund tax for 1866,	40	20
United States bounties, final instalment,	440	00
From County,	8	80
Reuben H. Pratt, taxes collected on old		
list,	5	09
From Jesse Gilman, on settlement of suit,	37	45
Cash balance in favor of alms house,	19	60
	<hr/>	\$2289 57
Whole amount received,		<hr/> \$10,589 48

### EXPENDITURES.

Paid, State tax,	3225	00
" County tax,	795	82
	<hr/>	\$4020 82

### SCHOOLS.

Dist. No. 1, Paid G. C. Ingalls,	81	32
" 2, " A. Savage,	73	06
" 3, " S. B. Moore,	186	98
" 4, " J. Hale,	97	93
" 5, " W. Reed,	63	68



Dist. No. 6, Paid A. B. Woodward,	57 54
" 7, " Wm. Moore,	84 88
" 8, " Alex'r McC. Wilkins,	81 22
" 9, " I. Herrick,	105 84
" 10, " G. S. Parkhurst,	28 64
" 11, " A. G. Blood,	73 89
" 12, " T. M. King,	46 40

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\$981 38

## PAID OLD BILLS OF 1864-5.

Benjamin M. Hill, abatement for 1860,	8 40
S. B. Moore, J. Pierce's tax land for '64,	10 50
Frederick F. Walker, on list for 1865,	125 98
Benj. Ela, to Nashua with dist. records, 1865,	2 00
Charles W. Dutton, breaking roads, '65,	6 68
G. F. Spalding, labor, stone and plank, 1861-3-4,	11 50
A. C. Darrah, to Nashua, McAfee case, 1865,	2 00
Benj. Hartshorn, damage on road in '65,	14 00
John L. Spalding, state aid committee, 1864-5,	40 00
Ward Parker, state aid committee, 1864-5,	10 50
Charles H. Longa, superintendant poor farm, balance of account, 1865,	235 77
Interest on the same,	8 25
H. E. Abbott, bill against superintendent of poor farm, 1865,	190 96
Benjamin Ela, abatement on land,	1 73

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\$668 27

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

*Paid:*

S. King, for labor on roads and bridges,	\$11 75
R. Melvin, labor at setting railing,	35
A. Goodwin, " " "	63
James S. Longa, labor on road,	1 50
A. McMillen, on bridge near H. Ritterbush's,	75
S. Kenny, plank Turkey Hill bridge,	3 00
T. T. & A. S. Longa, labor on bridge,	1 75
D. Jones, posts for railing,	1 68
T. T. & A. S. Longa, for poles and posts,	2 94
Peter M. Kersey, putting up railing,	2 68
Ward Parker, labor on roads and bridges,	10 84
L. Fisher, for breaking roads,	8 80

S. C. Anderson, for spikes for railing bridges,	1 53	
George C. Ingalls, repairing and breaking roads,	16 20	
Israel C. Crooker, plank,	1 94	
John McGilvery, labor on roads and bridges,	4 25	
Isaiah Herrick, labor on roads and snowing bridge,	5 50	
John French, breaking roads,	25 43	
E. P. Parkhurst, breaking roads,	9 10	
John Kinson, " "	5 25	
Isaac Fitts, " "	34 70	
Jacob Hartshorn, " "	5 18	
Benj. Hartshorn, " "	10 00	
T. T. Longa, " "	18 81	
Wm. McAfee, " "	4 20	
Chas. W. Patterson, breaking roads in dis- trict No. 12	18 64	
A. C. Darrah, erecting railing,	1 75	
George F. Hill, repairing roads,	25 35	
Wm. U. Gage, for plank,	11 52	
Albert A. Junkings, repairing roads,	11 63	
Peter M. Kersey, breaking roads	3 22	
		<hr/>
		\$270 87

## POOR OFF THE FARM.

R. P. Leonard, support of brother,	26 00	
John Stone, support of Widow Kittredge,	52 00	
John G. Reed, support of Sanderson's family,	3 92	
S. Spalding, " " " "	4 88	
Dr. Harrison Eaton, County paupers,	6 25	
S. C. Anderson, goods for James B. Fields,	18 00	
		<hr/>
		\$111 05

## ABATEMENTS FOR 1866-7.

James Pierce, on land,	11 31	
Daniel T. Ingalls, over assessment on Poll,	4 26	
Frederick F. Walker, on list 1866,	81 94	
		<hr/>
		\$97 51

## INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

N. P. Greene, for stationery,	11 71	
" " " printing report 1865,	25 00	
G. W. Currier, damage on highway,	75 00	
Sawyer & Stevens, advice,	3 00	
(Damage) McAfee case as per verdict,	10 00	
Costs, " " "	152 88	

Military agent, expenses, two journeys to Concord,	6 50	
Thomas M. King, for public watering trough, 1866,	3 00	
Richard Fretts, damage by Dogs,	4 60	
B. Hartshorn, " " " "	6 00	
H. N. Robbins " " " "	4 25	
Morrison & Stanley, cost in Gilman case,	37 43	
Ward Parker, attendance at court and expenses,	12 00	
Simeon Kenney, " " " "	14 00	
Elijah P. Parkhurst, interest by town order,	34 79	
Robert McGaw, " " " "	400 00	
	<hr/>	\$800 16

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Ephraim Colburs, town clerk,	15 00	
Harrison Eaton, " "	5 00	
Samuel C. Anderson, town treasurer,	15 00	
Simeon Kenny, selectman and overseer of the poor,	99 50	
Ward Parker, " " "	63 00	
Eri Kittredge, " " "	28 00	
Frederick F. Walker, collector of taxes,	83 00	
Hosea B. Spalding, Superintending school Committee,	65 00	
	<hr/>	\$373 50

## RECAPITULATION.

Total amount assessed,	8299 91	
State and county taxes,	4020 82	
School tax,	981 38	
For roads and bridges,	270 87	
Poor off farm including Physician's bill at farm,	111 05	
Abatements for 1866-7,	97 51	
Incidental expenses,	800 16	
Town officers,	373 50	
Old bills and abatements,	668 27	
	<hr/>	\$7323 56

Balance in favor of town of 976 35

## FINANCIAL REPORT.

Cash received on loan,	4699 00
" T. T. & A. S. Longa, on notes,	727 26



Cash State Treasurer and other sources,	2289 57	
“ Town Treasurer,	355 00	
	<hr/>	\$8070 83

Cash paid on notes and interest by		
Selectmen,	8020 87	
“ by State aid committee,	789 50	
“ by Town Treasurer,	176 80	
	<hr/>	
Total amount paid,		\$8987 17

## TOWN DEBT.

Total amount of notes outstanding and interest on the same to March 1, 1867,	32,709 25	
Deduct balance of financial year 1866-7,	976 35	
	<hr/>	
Amount over assets,		\$31,732 90
Amount of notes and interest on the same, given to those men who put in substitutes, said notes being now under temporary injunction of the court, deducted,	7565 51	
	<hr/>	
Total indebtedness on demand,		\$24,167 39

## ALMS HOUSE REPORT.

## EXPENSES.

Paid Mrs. Marshall, for 3½ bushels corn,	3 50
“ ½ bush. beans,	1 50
“ 3 “ potatoes,	2 10
“ 56 lbs. flour,	3 92
“ 4½ lbs. cod-fish,	31
“ 1 lb. tea,	1 40
“ 5 lbs. dried apple,	1 00
“ 4 galls. pickles,	1 00
“ 10 galls. vinegar,	4 00
“ 21 lbs. lard,	5 88
“ 8 fowls,	6 00
Blacksmith shoeing horse,	40
Mr. Merrill, opium,	1 00
H. N. Robbins, grinding,	56
Taylor & Norwell, 1½ yds. gingham,	34
Barr & Co., axe-helve and lash,	2 17
A. B. Dodge, clothing for James Barnes,	6 00

C. H. Nutt, grass-seed,	6 06
Mr. Shattuck, for plaster,	1 80
Shoes for Miss Chandler,	2 75
J. G. Reed, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. snuff,	60
Mr. McQuesten, 1 lb. tea, 3 gals. molasses,	3 10
S. Kenny, 500 feet hay, 3 bush. oats,	18 95
Z. Perry, 4 quarts beans,	40
J. S. F., beef,	3 83
Mr. Laton, for beef,	2 08
For repairing clock,	1 00
C. Converse, doctoring pigs,	30
Z. Perry, 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. lard,	3 43
C. Goodwin, 4 days' labor haying,	8 00
Burke & Taylor, fish, turnip seed,	96
Merrill & Barr, meal,	25 00
Mr. Laton, beef,	1 30
For screens .50, groceries .62,	1 12
James Willey, labor six days' haying,	10 50
Daggett & Cross, shoeing horse and rivets,	2 10
Joseph Colburn, groceries,	3 96
Taylor & Norwell, cloth and thread,	1 60
L. Fisher, for runnet,	14
N. & S. Chase, store goods,	21 02
Merrill & Barr, meal,	25 00
Mr. Brown, repairing harness,	1 62
Mr. Shattuck, tea and sugar,	1 30
J. D. Bederick, repairing wagon,	1 80
Mr. Wheeler, two baskets,	1 35
Mr. Barr, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. potash,	1 87
S. Melendy, repairing lead pipe,	3 75
Damon & Weeks, paper and curtains,	1 80
J. Reed, for snuff,	50
D. W. Cada, broom and cheese pan,	1 30
H. Dane, crockery ware,	1 65
Mr. Fowle, labor one day,	1 25
Barr & Co., grass seed,	17 00
Daggett & Cross, shoeing horse,	50
E. Gilmore, mason work,	50
Mr. Colburn, 2 lbs. tobacco,	1 20
A. S. Longa, labor two days,	2 00
E. P. Parkhurst, ten bush. rye,	13 00
F. Herrick, repairing plow,	1 00
S. C. Anderson, store goods,	89 59
W. Parker, 1 calf,	9 00
F. F. Kimball, cotton cloth,	11 63
T. T. Longa, self and oxen,	14 50

G. W. Sawin, blacksmith work,	1 75
Z. Perry, cabbages,	50
C. Nutt, fork hoe,	80
S. Fuller, use of cider-mill,	26
S. Kenny, labor and use of wheels,	1 50
Grinding corn,	27
J. K. Marshall, labor,	52 50
Merrill & Barr, flour and meal,	37 78
Fiske & Libby, shoes,	1 50
J. Reed & Co., snuff,	50
D. & C., 3 galls. molasses,	2 25
F. Kimball, cotton cloth,	1 66
Mr. Goodrich, repairing boiler,	45
F. Nichols, labor,	1 75
D. Swett, use of bull,	1 70
F. Boutell, for meat,	14 66
C. Merrill, opium and medicine,	13 75
G. Stevens, store bill,	85 18
J. F. Osgood, blacksmith work,	6 08
W. Wetherbee, taxes in Amherst,	1 33
I. P. Weston, butchering,	1 50
F. Nichols, " "	60
Wm. U. Gage, sawing lumber,	7 67
S. C. Nesmith, filing saws,	40
N. & S. Chase, store goods,	44 87
Mr. Goodrich, sheet-iron,	2 00
C. H. Nutt, glass and putty,	54
Barr & Co., 20 lbs. potash,	3 00
Levi Fisher, carrying J. Barnes to County farm,	2 00
Mrs. Marshall, for use of cow,	5 00
" " two tin pails,	1 50
F. Boutell, grinding,	35
Thomas Parker, use of harrow,	1 00
I. Parker, labor,	3 25
L. Fuller, two buffalo robes,	6 00
" four meal bags,	1 00
Superintendent's salary,	290 00

Amount of expenditures,

\$961 04

#### RECEIPTS.

Rec'd. of T. T. Longa, horse hire,	50
I. Reed, 12 3-16 lbs. of butter,	6 15
Burke & Taylor, 1 bush. cranberries,	3 00
Mr. Greene, 28 lbs. butter,	13 45



Mr. Greene, 6 doz. eggs,	1 50
Mr. Shattuck, 10½ lbs. butter,	4 72
Mr. Laton, 1 calf,	12 00
“ 20 lbs. butter,	9 00
Mr. Goodwin, 3½ doz. eggs,	1 68
County, for board and clothes for J. Barnes,	20 79
Individuals for 23 lbs. butter,	9 20
Z. Perry, drawing logs,	75
Individuals, 33½ lbs. butter,	12 73
Mr. Sawyer, 20 lbs. butter,	7 60
Mr. Goodwin, 2 lbs. butter, .75, and milk, 10,	85
Burke & Taylor, 35 lbs. butter,	12 25
Mr. Colburn, 5½ doz. eggs,	1 54
Ward Parker, 2 pigs,	9 00
I. Fills, 1 pig,	4 50
Mr. Cook, 15 lbs. butter,	6 00
Mr. Colburn, 19½ lbs. butter,	8 19
Mr. McKeever, 1 pig,	6 75
Mr. Adams, 3½ doz. eggs,	1 08
“ “ 2½ bush. apples,	3 12
N. & S. Chase, 6 lbs. butter,	2 52
Mr. Adams, 3 doz. eggs,	84
“ “ apples,	1 95
Fuller & Robertson, 4 cattle,	257 00
Z. Perry, one shoat,	7 75
Mr. Shattuck, apples,	2 25
R. Howard, 53 bush. apples,	26 50
For apples,	4 50
N. Nichols, 12 lbs. butter,	5 10
T. T. & S. Longa, 34 weeks board,	106 90
“ “ for horse hire,	1 00
“ “ for two pigs,	9 50
“ “ five bushels apples,	5 00
Mr. Nichols, 6 fowls,	3 00
Mr. Perry, 1 pig,	7 75
R. Howard, 20 bush. apples,	9 00
Mr. Page, dinner and baiting,	50
“ three bbls. apples,	11 00
Mr. Nichols, 6 fowls,	3 00
“ 4 lbs. butter,	1 80
“ 2 bbls. apples,	8 00
“ 5 bush. potatoes,	3 00
C. Fosdick, 4 barrels apples,	14 00
“ 4 do. “	8 00
Mr. Barr, 5 turkeys,	7 05
A. S. Longa, 2 bbls. apples,	8 00

Mr. Fosdick, 42 fowls,	19 74
James Batchelder, 10 bbls. apples,	31 25
Two feather beds,	6 20
J. C. Towns, two turkeys,	3 00
Mr. Nichols, 4 lbs. butter,	1 80
Mr. Perry, 3 lbs. cheese,	60
J. C. Towns, one barrel apples,	4 50
Mr. Barr, 20 gals. cider,	4 40
Burke & Taylor, 6 lbs. butter,	2 70
D. Jones, one barrel apples,	4 00
Mr. Boutelle, 95 lbs. turkeys,	15 20
“ 4 fowls,	2 00
“ 33½ quarts milk,	2 35
Daggett & Cross, 4 doz. eggs,	1 40
Mr. Wiggin, 16¾ quarts milk,	1 00
C. H. Longa, one cow,	36 00
“ interest on the same,	1 24
D. Jones, 3 turkeys,	5 92
Wm. U. Gage, 142 lbs. beef,	17 04
L. Fisher, 123 pounds beef,	15 99
Robertson & Co., 22 pounds chickens,	4 18
D. Parker, cowhide,	5 28
N. & S. Chase, 9 bush. potatoes,	4 50
J. C. Towns, 2 bbls. apples,	9 00
Mr. Nichols, 17½ lbs. butter,	7 35
Mr. Green, 10 bush. potatoes,	5 00
F. Nichols, 2 qts. soap,	10
Martha and Florence Rolfe, 28 weeks board,	28 75
A. McC. Wilkins, drawing 16,850 ft. timber,	67 40
S. Kenny, for use of oxen and for labor,	1 50
Amount of receipts,	<hr/> \$980 64
Amount of expenditures,	<hr/> 961 04

Cash balance in favor of farm. \$19 60

### RECEIPTS FOR LABOR FOR TOWN OFF THE FARM.

For hauling poles and posts and labor on road,	13 75
For breaking roads,	11 44
Plank for bridges, the timber for the same taken from farm,	31 87
Add cash balance in favor of farm,	19 60
	<hr/> \$76 66
Deduct physician's bill,	5 50
	<hr/> \$71 16

Final balance in favor of farm, \$71 16

INVOICE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT FARM,  
Feb. 16, 1867.

1 Horse,	100 00	
1 pair oxen,	200 00	
1 pair 4 years old steers,	160 00	
4 cows,	200 00	
4 yearlings,	60 00	
3 shoats,	63 00	
25 fowls, 2 turkeys,	21 00	
	<hr/>	\$804 00

HAY AND GRAIN.

9 tons English hay,	243 00	
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " stock hay,	20 00	
Corn fodder and straw,	10 00	
40 bushels corn,	54 00	
Lot seed "	1 50	
18 bush. oats,	11 70	
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " beans,	16 50	
	<hr/>	\$356 70

PROVISIONS.

2 $\frac{1}{4}$ bbls. pork,	75 00	
216 " ham,	39 00	
2-3 bbl. beef,	15 00	
50 lbs. fresh beef,	7 00	
132 bush. potatoes,	66 00	
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ bbls. apples,	6 00	
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " cider,	8 00	
8 bush. carrots,	4 00	
2 " turnips,	50	
6 galls. vinegar,	2 40	
16 " pickles,	6 40	
42 lbs. cheese,	8 40	
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. eggs,	1 00	
$\frac{3}{4}$ bbl. flour,	12 00	
$\frac{1}{2}$ " meal,	2 50	
32 lbs. butter,	12 80	
36 " lard,	6 40	
26 " sasauges,	6 00	
2 galls. molasses,	1 50	
Lot spices,	1 50	
10 lbs. sugar,	1 20	
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " tea,	1 80	
6 " fine salt,	12	



2 lbs. saleratus,	24
5 " suet,	60
66 " dried apple,	11 00
4 " salt fish,	30

## MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

2 bbls. soap,	12 00	
31 lbs. tallow and candles,	4 34	
$\frac{3}{4}$ quart neat's oil,	32	
1 gal. kerosene oil,	75	
6 lbs. grease,	50	
1 lb. tobacco,	75	
		<hr/>
		\$315 32
Total value of personal property at the alms house, appraised Feb. 16, 1867,	1476 02	
The same description of property apprais- ed Feb. 19, 1866,	1379 48	
		<hr/>
Increase of property since 1866,	96 54	

The estimate of Farming Tools and Household Furniture,  
same as last year.

## REMARKS.

The undersigned believe that they have made a correct statement of the affairs of the town for the past financial year in the foregoing report. They would say that they have not been able to make so full and clear account of the funds as they would wish, owing in part perhaps to their financial qualifications.

It will be seen by the above, that the balance in the treasury on the financial account is \$976 35 including old bills of \$668,27, which if not included, would leave a balance of \$1644,62 on the business of the past financial year.

The law suits that were mentioned in the Selectmen's Report of last year, have been disposed of by trial of the case McAfee vs. town, which resulted in a verdict against the town, damage ten dollars and costs, (see report.) The other case has been settled by advice of the town's counsel. Mr. Gilman paid one half of the damage and his own costs. The town is now free from the fangs of the law.

The roads and bridges are in about the same state of repair as at the last annual report, the superintendent of the town farm has been directed to cut and haul some timber to the mills suitable for plank to repair the bridges another year if wanted for that purpose.

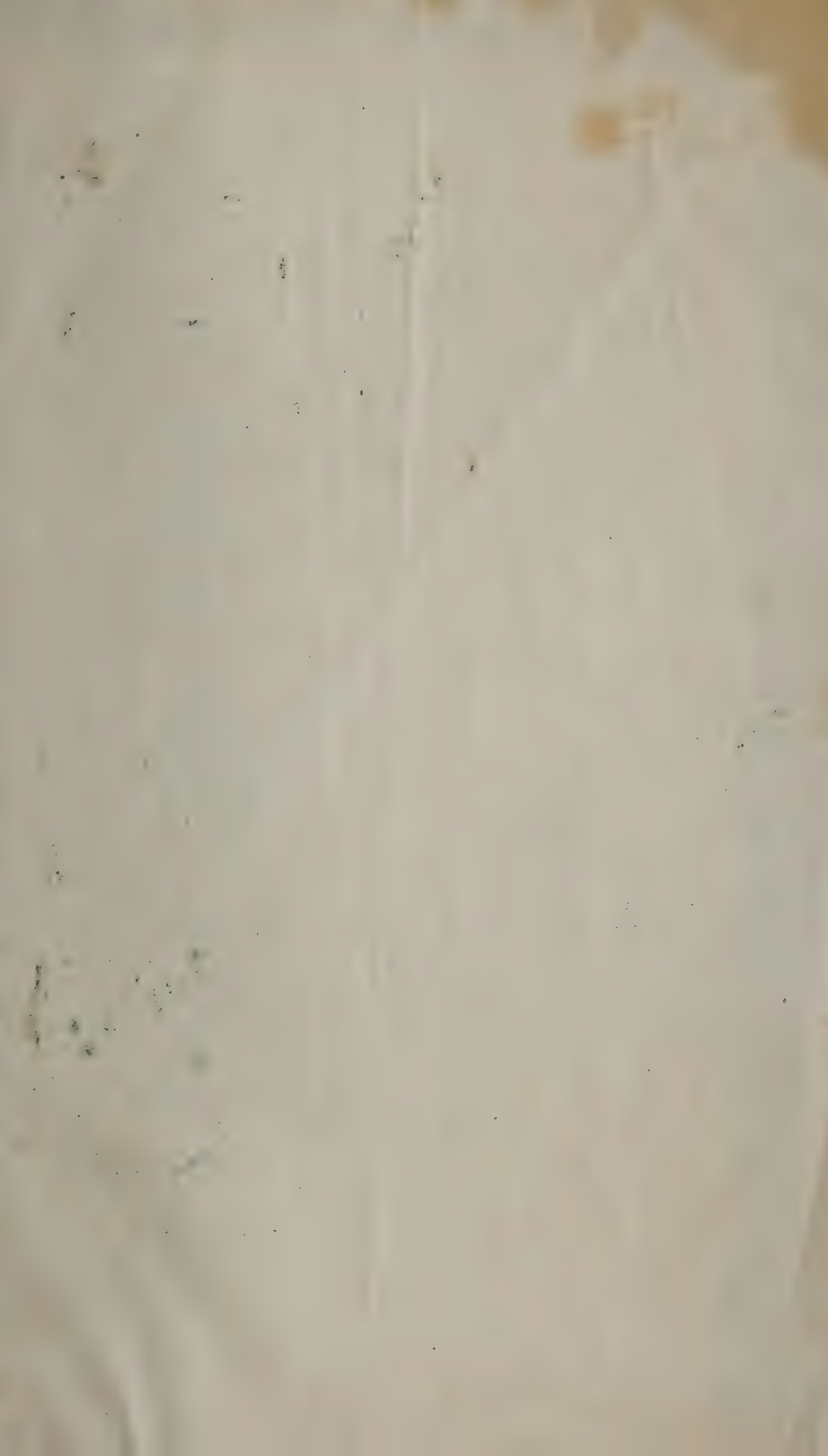
The Overseers of the Poor have secured the services of Mr. Fuller and mother for another year as superintendents of the almshouse at higher wages than last year. We believe that the business of the institution has been conducted in a prudent and economical manner. The inmates appear to be contented and happy. There are five paupers at the farm at the present time. James Barnes, who has been maintained by the town many years, is by the laws now in force, chargeable to the county, and was removed to the county farm in April last; by the above report it will be seen that the farm has become a source of revenue as by the final balance the town treasury has been relieved to the amount of \$71,16.

Mr. Fuller has cleared and sown ten acres of land to rye and grass at the cost of about \$45,00, cash, for seed and labor.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SIMEON KENNY,	} Selectmen of Merrimack.
WARD PARKER,	
ERI KITTREDGE,	

Merrimack, March 1st, 1867.





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